

Lucy Morris

Professor Kozek

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Math 5

Discussion: *Logicomix*

Why do you think that this story is told through a Graphic Novel?

- What aspects of the story can only be told through this form?
- What is the relationship between the text and the images, and what does that dynamic contribute to the story?
- Look at pg. 55-56. Do you feel like you can relate better to Bertie in this scene because of the image?
- Comics traditionally are tied to superheroes. The ending of *Logicomix* also has a heroic quality, referring to Greek Myths. Are there any other instances where you felt that the authors were trying to convey the heroics of math?

We have discussed the ways that mathematicians are portrayed in stories; did

*Logicomix* present mathematicians in a new way?

- Did the comic form help inform your impressions of mathematicians in the book?
- What did you think about the portrayal of Russel's fear of madness?
- What did you think about the way the text showed Russel relating to other people, particularly the women of the story?

*Logicomix* sets up a thematic parallel between reason and madness. How does this relate to the many references to religion throughout the text?

- On pg. 75 the story talks directly about this theme. What did you think about the fact that it referred so overtly to itself?

- On pg 86, Bertrand sees ruins of a church sinking into the sand. What does this moment tell us about his experience with religion and mathematics?
- What other themes do you see in the text? What do you make of the references to ghosts, art or other themes that may occur?
- What do you think of the definition of madness on pg. 217?

What do you think about the self-referential quality of the book?

- How does Russel's quest to understand mathematics reflect Christos and Apostolos quest to understand him?
- What do you think is added to the story by including the story of it being written (see pg. 77 for an example)
- Does the story show the logic of literature as similar to the logic of math?